

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims:**

Claims 1-8, 11, 21 and 37 are pending in the application.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 21 and 37 have been amended. The amendments are supported by way of example in the specification at least on page 34, lines 17-20. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-8, 11, 21 and 37 would be pending.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103:

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cornett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,216,612). Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cornett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,216,612) in view of Wagner (U.S. Patent No. 4,980,826). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claims 1 and 21 are directed to an arrangement in which a received order for a part from one domain is judged for a kind of the order and the received order is an order for a part of a product to be produced by the production line. A machining plan is devised based on the judged order. The ordered part is expanded into its component parts (e.g., sub parts) in accordance with the machining plan. Parts order information is generated to be orders placed based on each component part information expanded in the expanding step and a pre-determined minimum order number data of each component part to be required to produce the product stored in a database and is communicated to another domain. The second domain also prevents the communications of orders between the first domain and the third domain.

Independent claims 1 and 21, as amended, further recite that the pre-determined minimum order number is the minimum number of parts purchased decided in advance between the ordering side and delivery side owing to limitations defined by the number of packages.

On the contrary, Cornett et al. provide a maintenance system which unified a plurality of subsystems (3-8), and management of part level is performed by the subsystem (3-8). In this maintenance system of Cornett et al., generic parts are typically ordered using a point of order system in which additional quantities of parts are ordered when the quantity on hand is less than a predefined number. In contrast, nongeneric parts are ordered on a one-by-one basis based on the expected maintenance to be performed. Accordingly, inventory of these parts is minimized. See Cornett, col. 9, lines 48-55.

Applicants respectfully submit that the configuration of an order placing in Cornett et al does not disclose or suggest the claimed pre-determined minimum order number, i.e., the minimum number of parts purchased decided in advance between the ordering side and delivery side owing to limitations defined by the number of packages.

Wagner does not remedy the above-noted deficiencies in the Cornett teachings. Wagner discloses contents for judging about cancellation of ordering, correction of ordering, its execution, or coincidence of ordering. See Wagner, col. 13, lines 30-31. However, the configuration of the order placing in Wagner also does not disclose or suggest the claimed pre-determined minimum order number, i.e., the minimum number of parts purchased decided in advance between the ordering side and delivery side owing to limitations defined by the number of packages.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1 and 21 and their dependent claims are distinguishable over the cited references, individually or in combination. For similar reasons,

independent claim 37 is also distinguishable over the cited references, individually or in combination.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4457.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4457.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: November 4, 2004

By: _____


James Hwa
Registration No. 42,680
(202) 857-7887 Telephone
(202) 857-7929 Facsimile

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101